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November 22, 2004

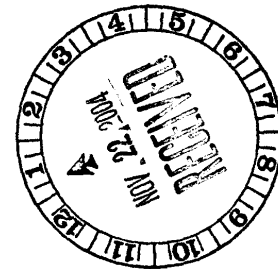
via fax 202-565-9004 (2 pages)
Original and 10 copies via mail

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings

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**Re: STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 240X), Norfolk Southern Railway
Company - Abandonment Exemption - In Gaston County, NC -
Request for Extension of Consummation Date Deadline**

Dear Mr. Williams:

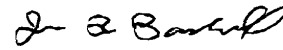
Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR) hereby requests that the Board grant NSR a 4-month extension of the deadline date to consummate abandonment of the 5-mile rail line that was the subject of the captioned proceeding from December 9, 2004 to Monday, April 11, 2005. The line extends between milepost HG-47.0 at Gastonia, NC and milepost HG-52.0 at Dallas (Gebo), NC in Gaston County, NC.

NSR has been discussing the possibility of conveying the line to the North Carolina Railroad Company as a line of railroad or for railbanking in some form. Moreover, if these discussions do not lead to an agreement, NSR still may consider negotiating with governmental bodies or other trail sponsors for a possible interim trail use agreement with respect to the right-of-way. Evaluation of the facts and circumstances concerning this line and the options for its disposition by both NSR and the North Carolina Railroad Company have taken longer than anticipated. NSR does not wish to lose either the option to exercise the abandonment exemption authority without further processing or the possibility of later negotiation for an interim trail use condition while the evaluation and negotiation process regarding disposition of the line continues. However, we do believe that further consideration and negotiation concerning the future of the line may result in a more satisfactory result than straight abandonment of the line.

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
AB-No. 290, Sub-No. 240X
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We have no reason to believe this extension of the deadline date would result in any adverse effect on any interested party. In fact, the additional time will help facilitate negotiations that might lead to preservation of the right-of-way as a line of railroad or an interim trail. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



James R. Paschall

cc: via fax (704) 854-6607
as representative of the County, City and Town

Honorable Jennifer T. Stultz, Mayor
City of Gastonia
P. O. Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053-1748

cc via e-mail:

Mr. Scott M. Saylor, President
North Carolina Railroad Company
2809 Highwoods Blvd., Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27604-1640

cc: Ms. S. B. Corey
Mr. M. C. Kirchner
Ms. J. M. Lipps
Mr. R. P. Dietz
Mr. R. L. Williams